

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the following paragraph of the specification. Applicant includes herewith an Attachment for Specification Amendments showing a marked up version of each replacement paragraph in which underlines indicate insertions and brackets indicate deletions.

b1 On page 1, line 2, in between the title and SPONSORSHIP, please add ~~/~~ This is a regular application of provisional application Serial No. 60/103,961 filed on October 13, 1998.--

Please replace paragraph, page 3, lines 2-17, with the following paragraph:

b2 The present invention relates to new isostructural compounds having the general formula $A_n M_m M'_n Q_{2n+m}$ where A is an alkali metal, such as lithium (Li), sodium (Na), potassium (K), rubidium (Rb), or cesium (Cs) or the transition metal silver (Ag) or thallium (Tl) and mixtures thereof, M is lead (Pb), tin (Sn), germanium (Ge), calcium (Ca), strontium (Sr), barium (Ba), any divalent transition metal or mixtures thereof, M' is bismuth (Bi), antimony (Sb) or mixtures thereof, and Q is sulfur (S), selenium (Se), or tellurium (Te) and mixtures thereof. These compounds possess an NaCl-type cubic lattice crystal structure where A, M and M' occupy the Na sites and Q occupies the Cl (chlorine) sites. This family of compounds combine isotropic morphology, an advantageous property for device processing, with low thermal conductivity and widely ranged electrical conductivity. Further, certain properties such as the electrical properties of the compounds can be controlled by varying the values for n and m. The isostructural compounds of the present invention are therefore good candidates for semiconductor applications in thermoelectronic devices, detectors, and photovoltaic cells, by way of non-limiting example.

Please replace paragraph, page 3, line 34 to page 4, line 5, with the following paragraph:

B3
The present invention provides new isostructural compounds having the general formula $A_n M_m M'_n Q_{2n+m}$ where A is an alkali metal, such as lithium (Li), sodium (Na), potassium (K), rubidium (Rb), cesium (Cs), or the transition metals silver (Ag) or thallium (Tl) and mixtures thereof, M is lead (Pb), tin (Sn), germanium (Ge), calcium (Ca), strontium (Sr), barium (Ba), any divalent transition metal or mixtures thereof, M' is bismuth (Bi), antimony (Sb) or mixtures thereof, and Q is sulfur (S), selenium (Se), or tellurium (Te) and mixtures thereof.

Please replace paragraph, page 9, lines 13-23, with the following paragraph:

The isostructural components of the present invention can be used to produce N-type semiconductor materials by doping with various impurities. Isovalent anionic dopants, where S or Se is substituted for Te and S for Se may be used in about less than 1 atomic percent. Other examples of compounds that can be used for doping are the metal halides SbX_3 , BiX_3 , and Hg_2Cl_2 , DX_2 where X is chlorine, bromine, iodine and mixtures thereof and D is chromium, manganese, iron, cobalt, nickel, copper, zinc, magnesium and mixtures thereof. These are examples of compounds that can be used for doping and are in no way meant to be limiting. It should be appreciated by those skilled in the art that any dopant can be used to dope the isostructural compounds of the present invention to form enhanced P-type and N-type semiconductors.

OATH OR DECLARATION

The Examiner has stated that the Oath or Declaration is defective. A new Oath or Declaration will be submitted in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.67(a).

35 U.S.C. §119(e)

The Examiner objects to the application receiving the benefit of an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) because Applicants have not complied with 37 C.F.R. §1.78. Specifically, there is no specific reference to the prior application in the first sentence of the application. Applicants respectfully traverse and request withdrawal of the objection. 37 C.F.R. §1.78(a)(2) states that "any nonprovisional application claiming the benefit of one or more prior filed copending *nonprovisional* applications or international applications" (emphasis added) must contain a reference to the prior application in the first sentence of the application. Applicants, however, are claiming the benefit of a prior *provisional* application and therefore are not required under 37 C.F.R. §1.78(a) to provide a specific reference to the prior filed application in the specification. However, in an effort to expedite prosecution of this case, but in no way conceding to the Examiner's objection, Applicants have amended the specification to include a specific reference to the prior application in the first sentence of the application. Applicants therefore request withdrawal of the objection.

SPECIFICATION

The Examiner has objected to the specification because of informalities. Applicants respectfully traverse and request reconsideration of the objection.

Applicants submit that the phrase "consisting essentially of" is a properly used phrase and need not be amended to "consisting of." Proper Markush language must be used in claiming the invention, but is not necessary to use the claim language in the specification. However, in an effort to expedite prosecution of this case, but in no way conceding to the validity of the Examiner's objection, Applicants have, amended the specification to remove the